

April 19, 2002

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF \$180,000 GRANT AWARD FROM
THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT
TO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS FOR HATE CRIME MEDIA CAMPAIGN AND
CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT**

(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED; 3 VOTES REQUIRED)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations to execute a Grant Agreement, presented in final form, with The California Endowment (TCE), a private foundation, to receive \$180,000 from TCE to augment the media outreach and organizational capacity of the Commission's Hate Crime Victim Assistance & Advocacy Initiative partners over the next two years, to be effective following approval by the Board of Supervisors and execution by all parties.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION/JUSTIFICATION

The recommended action will implement a comprehensive Hate Crime Media Campaign and Capacity Building project. The project would consist of a media campaign and organizational capacity building of six agencies funded by the Commission to do hate crime victim assistance and advocacy work to respond to increased numbers of hate crimes, acts of hate and discrimination in Los Angeles County in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedies. This grant would complement the Security Action Plan funding for this Commission program.

The grant is critically needed to meet the needs of populations in LA County that is continuing to experience higher than normal levels of discrimination and mistreatment due to the anti-Arab/Middle Eastern/Muslim fear and hostility arising from 9/11. The letter requesting approval arrived to the Commission much later than the letter's date, and the deadline for

approval had to be negotiated since the granting entity did not factor in the approval process by the Commission and the Board. The matter was scheduled for the next meeting of the Commission, on April 14th. Since that time, Commission staff have been working diligently to prepare this letter amidst the press of other commitments.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended Board action promotes the Board-approved County Vision Statement (particularly with respect to diversity as a value), and the following County Strategic Plan goals:

- Service Excellence, providing the public with easy access to quality information and services that are both beneficial and responsive (the media campaign component of the project)
- Organizational Effectiveness, ensuring that service delivery systems are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented (capacity building component of the project), and Strategic Objective 3.3.5, to pursue a programmatic goal of ensuring the public safety and security of residents (hate crime prevention objectives of the project)
- Fiscal Responsibility, Strategy 2 of increasing public/private partnerships (strengthening the organization capacity of the private, non-profit organizations that are our Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative partners)

It also furthers the Commission's strategic goal of expanding and strengthening the countywide human relations infrastructure for hate crime response and prevention.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is a positive impact on the County general fund, in that it will meet department needs which otherwise would need to be sought from department funds. No employees will be hired with this funding, so there will be no obligations on County funds with the end of funding from this grant (see attached Grants Management Statement); contract consultants will be hired for the capacity building component of the project.

Funds from the grant award will be disbursed in two allocations. There will be an initial disbursement of \$120,000 in year one for an organizational needs assessment of the agencies' increased demands for assistance and for a comprehensive marketing plan, including training on media advocacy and outreach, with the remaining \$60,000 to be disbursed in year two for continuation of the comprehensive plan.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On September, 1999 your Board approved the launching of a Hate Crime Victim Assistance & Advocacy Initiative (HCVAAI) to help those populations hard hit by hate crime in the county, and which had no or few community resources dedicated to addressing hate crime. HCVAAI's strategy is to build capacity and infrastructure to combat hate crime in non-profit based organizations with expertise working with specific communities. For the past two years, they have conducted outreach to under-served populations who have been targets of

hate crimes and hate incidents, provided assistance to victims of hate crime to access appropriate services, and advocated for measures to prevent and reduce hate crime.

On April 11, 2000, your Board delegated to the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission the authority to approve four contracts. These contracts provided funding for one full-time staff person to agencies deemed to possess competence, expertise, facilities and personnel to provide Program services where there was insufficient community capacity to meet the level of need for hate crime victim services. Original working partners include four of the leading proponents of their respective communities in Southern California: the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and the Youth Empowerment Project of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Within hours of the horrific terrorists acts of September 11, 2001, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission and its partner agencies working in hate crime victim assistance experienced a dramatic upsurge in calls for help. Suddenly, communities that had experienced sporadic, rare hateful acts were targeted for violence in alarming numbers. But immigrant communities and racial groups that have been traditional victims of hate acts and religious institutions were also attacked in frequent numbers in the months following 9/11. Additionally, Muslims, Arab-Americans and Sikhs have been heavily targeted for hatred and violence. Sadly, there are few members of the new arrival communities that have not been touched by the events of September 11th. South Asian groups, particularly Pakistanis and Indians, as well as Latinos, Asian Americans and Armenians have suffered hateful acts and crimes. In the months after the Sept. 11 attacks, a picture of a community coping with the tragedies in both positive and violent, hateful ways emerged:

- In the month after September 11th, State Attorney General Bill Lockyer reported 236 hate incidents and crimes reported to six major law enforcement agencies statewide; almost half from Los Angeles County, which had the largest number of such incidents in the state.
- An informal compilation by the Human Relations Commission noted over 150 hate acts and crimes being investigated by two of the largest law enforcement agencies in the county in the 60 days following 9/11, as well as reports from community based organizations who work with the targeted individuals.
- 91 anti-Middle Eastern hate crimes were reported in LA County in the 90 days following the 9/11 attacks, which was 700% more than during the entire 12 months of 2000, when there were 12 anti-Middle Eastern hate crimes reported (in 1999, there were 10). The number of hate crimes, and the 168 anti-Middle Eastern hate acts (includes crimes and non-criminal acts of discrimination) during the 90 days after 9/11 were the most seen by the Commission in its 21 years of reporting such data.

Add to these existing statistics the prospects for misplaced patriotism as a result of a long, grisly war in Afghanistan and fear of future terrorists attacks, and the need for increased

capacity in hate crime victim assistance and advocacy becomes critical. The foregoing challenges will demand that heavily targeted communities have the capacity to participate in programs and services that will directly affect their public safety and well being.

It is apparent to the Commission that responding to these hate acts in effective ways, with increased services and promoting the safety and well being of new arrival families in Southern California will not be achieved without a concerted, sustained effort on behalf of all targeted groups in California. The Commission's Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative is the only coordinated, regional response to the challenge of responding to hate crimes in the state. Its mission is to provide immediate response to the most egregious hate crimes, to advocate for the promotion of public safety by providing education on what constitutes hate crimes and the dangers of hate to a community, and to advocate for institutional changes to more effectively respond to, prevent and reduce hate crime. The Initiative's goal is to forge a coordinated, regional response to the challenge of serving the communities most targeted for hate crimes but which had scant resources for responding to these acts.

On September 25, 2001, on motion of Mayor Antonovich and Supervisor Burke, amended by Supervisor Molina, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Office to develop an action plan to ensure that County Public Safety and Health departments have necessary resources to protect the County's 10 million residents, including development of a Security Action Plan.

On October 23, 2001, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve \$5,881,000 in funding for this Fiscal Year and \$2,750,000 ongoing to implement the Security Action Plan. The Board allocated \$279,000 to fund implementation of a training program design to teach county residents about hate and for contracting staff to assist non-profit agencies that were overwhelmed with requests for assistance regarding hate crimes and discrimination. On December 3, 2001, \$209,496 was allocated for the four existing Hate Crime Victim Assistance & Advocacy agencies and the Muslim Public Affairs Council and South Asian Network, which were added to this Initiative at this time, based on the showing of need for hate crime victim assistance support.

On December 5, 2001, the Commission requested a two-year, \$180,000 grant from The California Endowment, which had established an emergency September 11th fund, to help fulfill the long-term needs of the Initiative. The Initiative seeks to accomplish these expanded goals posts 9/11:

- Expand and enhance our work to promote tolerance and anti-violence in underserved communities in Southern California by building the capacity of existing and new partners to promote tolerance and understanding towards their respective service community via education and outreach to victims
- Reduce the incidence and prevalence of hate acts and crimes directed against ethnic, racial, religious, sexual orientation, gender, and physical disability minorities by

developing public service announcements outlining the existing and new partners services for distribution to key areas in the county via radio, print and entertainment outlets

- Increase the ability of the victim assistance partners' to serve their communities by providing consultants to assist with media training, needs assessment and fund/resource development
- Reduce the negative mental and physical health effects of being identified a targeted community by partnering with mental health and criminal victim assistance advocates to provide counseling and referrals, and by building the capacity of these advocates to recognize what constitutes hate acts and crimes to better serve the needs of hate crime victims

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Your Board is requested to delegate to the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission the authority to execute a two-year Agreement that will implement a comprehensive media plan and needs assessment as described above.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROJECTS

These actions will enable the Commission's Hate Crime Victim Assistance & Advocacy Initiative to conduct:

- A high profile media campaign to raise awareness of the issues around hate crime, particularly post 9/11 backlash, and media actions designed to reach immigrant and newcomer communities, who are most at risk for hate and discrimination.
- A short-term needs assessment to determine:
 - i) how the Initiative partners have been affected in responding to short-term needs post 9/11
 - ii) how they can best advocate for the broader needs of post 9/11 hate victim communities, and,
 - iii) what impact homeland anti-terrorist actions and policies are having on discrimination and hate against County residents, particularly communities that have been affected by post-9/11 scapegoating.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin S. Toma
Executive Director
Commission on Human Relations

RST:TVM

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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Attachments (2)

- Purpose of Grant Award, Standard Grant Commitment Terms, and Communication Guidelines for Grantees
- Grant Management Statement

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller